

# **ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2014**

## **JEFFERSON COUNTY LAND INFORMATION OFFICE**

### **Land Records Modernization**

#### **Tax Roll Scanning Project**

A scanning project for 81 years of archived property tax rolls for years 1915 to 1995 was completed. River City Data of Spicer, Minnesota provided the scanning services. Scanning the 81 years of tax roll books resulted in 19,683 image files containing 460,093 pages of historical data. Optical character recognition (OCR) software was used to generate a searchable format that was loaded into the FileDirector document imaging system. The improved access to these records has saved countless hours of county staff time.

#### **Land Records Public Access Initiative**

A land records public access project to provide 24/7 public access to several document series was started in 2014. The records made available by this project include property tax bills, plats of surveys, government monument records and highway reconstruction plans. Enhancements to the Public Geographic Information System (GIS) Viewer and the Public Land Records Search websites provide the general public and real estate professionals' downloadable documents at their convenience. There has been between 1000 and 1500 records downloaded each month saving hundreds of staff hours performing searches, emailing and or copying these records on a yearly basis.

#### **Statewide Parcel Map Initiative**

The Land Information Office has participated fulfilling the statutory directive for state and local governments to coordinate for the development of a statewide digital parcel map. The Statewide Parcel Map Initiative is an effort to create a digital parcel map for Wisconsin by aggregating local parcel datasets utilizing GIS technology. The Parcel Initiative is a multi-faceted, multi-year collaborative effort of the Department of Administration, State Cartographer's Office, and local governments. The following is a summary of directives:

- Initiative to Create a Statewide Digital Parcel Map
- Increase in Base Budget and Training & Education Grant Eligibility
- Increase in Land Information Fund Revenue from 2 to 7 dollars per document to the state beginning in 2015
- Update Frequency for County Land Information Plan updates to every three years instead of five years
- Penalties and Deadlines for not making certain information related to individual parcels of and online in a searchable format as determined by DOA by June 30, 2017

#### **Parcel Map Improvement Project:**

The Cartographer started a project to improve the spatial accuracy of digital parcel maps in the rural areas of the county. The current maps for rural areas were hand digitized in the early 1990s from hand drawn maps. The improvement process will involve using as much land survey information as possible to reconstruct the rural parcel maps so they match up more consistently with the aerial photography that the county acquires every 5 years. The result will be a more accurate representation of the parcel map features as they exist on the ground.

### Live Streaming GIS Data to Municipalities

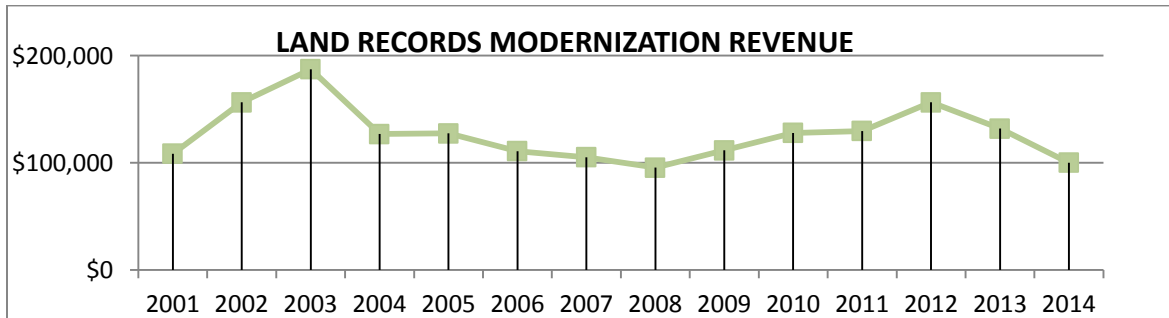
Local Cities and Villages and their contractors frequently request GIS ownership data from the County for local projects and systems. ArcGIS Server is built around Map Services that can be accessed over the internet. The map services are used for our own GIS websites, but can be consumed by parties outside the county. We have provided live map service links to the City of Jefferson and City of Lake Mills. This provides more up to date information for layers like ownership that frequently change and should save us staff time filling data requests. The additional load on the GIS map server has not been noticeable.

### Land Information Program Revenues

The Land Records Modernization Plan is funded by a portion of the Register of Deeds recording fees collected for each recorded document. The County retains eight dollars for each document. These funds are restricted to use for land records modernization projects that are identified in the County Land Records Modernization Plan.

COLLECTION PERIOD	DOCUMENTS SUBJECT TO FEES	COUNTY RETAINED	REMOTE ACCESS FEES
2010	17,631	*\$119,845	\$8,073
2011	15,110	\$120,887	\$8,732
2012	18,390	\$147,120	\$9,235
2013	15197	\$121,576	\$10,239
2014	11,174	\$89,392	\$10,678

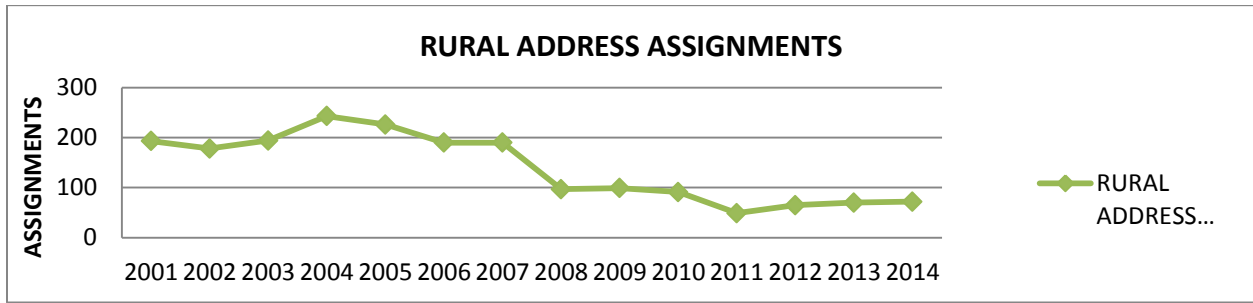
\*On June 25, 2010 the retained fees increased from \$6 to \$8 per document retained for land records modernization. The total number of documents recorded that are subject to the fees decreased by 26% from 2013 to 2014.



### REAL ESTATE ACTIVITY MULTI-YEAR COMPARISON

YEAR	DOCUMENTS PROCESSED		RURAL ADDRESS ASSIGNMENTS		YEAR END TOTAL PARCELS	COMBINED OR VACATED PARCELS	NEW PARCELS		REVENUE MAP SALES ETC
2010	2,741		91		43,389	9	106		\$16,576
2011	2,880		49		43,406	76	93		\$13,336
2012	3,236		65		43,497	16	107		\$14,749
2013	3,332		70		43,576	18	97		\$14,003
2014	-9%	3,028	+3%	72	43,658	24	+9%	106	\$14,336

The following graph illustrates rural address assignments over the last 14 years.



**SURVEY ACTIVITY IN JEFFERSON COUNTY**

YEAR	CERTIFIED SURVEY MAPS	PLATS OF SURVEYS	SUBDIVISION PLATS	STATE TRANS- PORTATION PLATS	CEMETERY PLATS	CONDO PLATS
2010	63	159	0	39	0	2
2011	77	166	0	17	0	1
2012	84	185	1	2	0	2
2013	58	252	0	0	1	2
2014	66	239	0	0	0	2

**Land Survey Projects**

In addition to maintenance of the public land survey system monuments, monument records certified survey review and filing plats of survey, the Land Surveyor was engaged in the following County projects in 2014: Boundary survey of County Road J right of way from County Road G to the City of Jefferson, construction staking for the County Road N reconstruction project in the Town of Milford, construction staking for County Road W and access road for the new highway shop facility and building site surveys for the Farmland Conservation Easement Commission.

**STAFF DIRECTORY**

NAME	POSITION
ANDY ERDMAN	DIRECTOR
TRACY SAXBY	REAL PROPERTY LISTER
JIM MORROW	COUNTY SURVEYOR
NICHOLL OSTOPOWICZ	CARTOGRAPHER
KELLY STADE	ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST - 0.4 FTE

Respectfully Submitted

Andrew J. Erdman